

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 032277

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 A-01 AID-05

FBO-02 NIC-01 OMB-01 OPR-01 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SCS-03

SY-04 USSS-00 /074 R

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APPROVED BY S/S - PJOHNSON

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 032277

TOSEC 127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, ET

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN ETHIOPIA AS OF
1500 HOURS (EST), FEBRUARY 12, 1975

QUOTE:

THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
AND NEWSWEEK WERE ARRESTED IN ADDIS ABABA ON FEBRUARY
12 UPON THEIR RETURN BY AIR FROM ASMARA. NO CHARGES
HAVE BEEN LODGED AGAINST THEM BUT IT IS POSSIBLE
THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR THEIR TRAVEL TO ASMARA, AS A
GOVERNMENT OWNED NEWSPAPER HAD REFERRED TO A
PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE' TRAVEL TO ERITREA
(SITREP 17). OUR EMBASSY IS IN CONTACT WITH THE TWO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 032277

PRISONERS AND ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN THEIR RELEASE.

THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE OF UPI REMAINS IN ASMARA.

ONE DOD EMPLOYEE AND SIX CONTRACTORS LEFT ASMARA BY AIR ON FEBRUARY 12, LEAVING 24 AMERICANS IN THE NSA COMPLEMENT OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT KAGNEW. THERE ARE ALSO 10 US NAVY PERSONNEL AND 32 NAVY CONTRACTORS AT KAGNEW. REMAINING AMERICANS IN ASMARA ARE: ONE CONTRACTOR DEPENDENT, THE 10 AMERICANS

AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL, TWO MAAG OFFICERS, AND ABOUT 10 PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

WE ARE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO REPLY TO THE ETHIOPIAN REQUEST THAT POWER FROM THE ELECTRIC GENERATOR AT KAGNEW BE SUPPLIED TO THE CITY OF ASMARA. WE FEEL THAT A POSITIVE RESPONSE IS JUSTIFIED FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES, BUT WE WISH TO EFFECT IT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF INSURGENT RETALIATION AGAINST AMERICANS FOR SUCH COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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